

and loyalty to the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Puerto Rican culture is a distinctly unique culture. By pledging allegiance to the Constitution of the United States of America, the people of Puerto Rico celebrate shared beliefs and the co-existence of both cultures. By ratifying their own constitution, the people of Puerto Rico retain and honor their original heritage while expressing the desire to pursue democracy and happiness for themselves.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "B.J." HANNON

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 1997

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William "B.J." Hannon. Born September 18, 1927, in Ironton, OH, B.J. has shown throughout his life that one man, by dedicating himself to his work and his community, can make a real and lasting difference in people's lives.

After his graduation from Ironton High School, B.J. proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy from June 1945 to August 1946. After this period of service, B.J. returned home to Ironton and began working at the Wilson Sporting Goods Co., where he was employed for 36 years.

Through his love of sports, B.J. gave every member of the Ironton community the opportunity to become a star athlete. Both children and adults alike have benefited from B.J.'s knowledge of sports and devotion to his hometown. A coach since 1960, B.J. has coached almost every sport conceivable including football, basketball, baseball, softball, and track.

He still coaches youth football, bringing countless hours of fun and hard work to the youth of Ironton.

The impact that a positive role model can have on children is immeasurable, and B.J. has not taken his responsibility lightly. One can only imagine how many little league kids might have been inspired to work a little harder after realizing that what they accomplish on the field can be duplicated in others aspects of their lives. Maybe some of the players on his high school girls' basketball team were inspired to take their game to the next level, college. And the hours of fun and relaxation that playing for his women's softball team or men's basketball team provides have let the adults in Ironton have as much fun as their children. For these reasons, in 1987 B.J. was an Ironton Sports Day honoree.

B.J. has also taken this responsibility to the civic level. He is a member of the Ironton City School Board, the city recreation board, and the Ironton Little League board of directors. These positions have allowed him the opportunity to provide his insight on issues affecting the entire community, and have established him as a greatly respected figure in the Ironton area. The best part is that B.J. doesn't think of these positions as jobs, but as a way to improve the quality of life in Ironton.

At the end of this month, B.J. will be retiring from Cabletron—a company he helped build over the past 10 years. He began with the company on day one when Cabletron first set

up operations in Ironton with just 25 employees. And he has left his mark. I recently attended the dedication of Cabletron's new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Ironton which now employs over 550 employees. There is no historical document stating when the last industrial facility was built in the city of Ironton. But we know it has been a long time. The construction of this new facility shows that Cabletron sees its future in southern Ohio. There is no doubt that Cabletron's presence and growth in Ohio are the result of the skills and commitment of our work force. There truly has been an outstanding group of men and women who have contributed to the growth of Cabletron. And B.J. has been at the center of it all. As human resources director, B.J. put together and led this world-class work force.

During the dedication of Cabletron's new facility, every time B.J.'s name was mentioned the workers erupted with applause. The feeling seems mutual. B.J. excels in his ability to work with people. He treats everyone as an individual, and respects them and their opinions.

One of my favorite stories about B.J. involves an incident on a hot summer day when the air conditioning went out at the plant. B.J. showed up with boxes of popsicles for the 120 employees who were working at the plant at that time, and invited them all to take a break and share a popsicle with him. No matter what the situation, you can always count on B.J. to look out for those he works with.

B.J.'s noteworthy professional and public life has paralleled an equally happy home life. Married since 1952, B.J. and his wife Lavena have a son, Jeffrey, and three grandchildren. In his leisure hours, B.J. enjoys getting in some rounds of golf, and not surprisingly, enjoys watching his grandchildren participate in sports.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to honor a man who, simply by going about his work and being dedicated to his hometown, has given so much to the Ironton community. People of all ages, athletes, spectators, and fellow employees have had their lives touched by Mr. Hannon, whether they knew him or not. People like Mr. Hannon are what make smalltown America a great place to live. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. Hannon on his retirement and thanking him for his years of dedication to his community.

WHY MANAGED CARE PLANS NEED OUTSIDE AUDITS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues under debate between the House and Senate in the Medicare budget reconciliation bill is the issue of whether managed care plans should have an external and on-going—outside—quality review, or whether we should just rely on them being periodically reviewed through the accrediting process.

The Peer Review Organization for parts of the Delaware, Maryland, D.C., and Virginia area has written me, showing how HMO's that obtain accreditation from private accrediting agencies can, upon review and check by an external quality reviewing organization, be found to have serious problems.

It is important that we have both accrediting and outside, external review. The excerpt from the letter from the Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care, Inc., speaks for itself. Second, I would like to include in the RECORD a memo from the National Health Law Program concerning the limits and dangers of relying on private accreditation.

[From the Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care, July 11, 1997]

Table 1 presents non-compliance rates from a Medical Record Review we did of five managed care organizations for FY 97. All but one is accredited by NCQA. Each of these clinical areas were reviewed against specific standards well known and accepted by the industry. For instance, for hypertension, specific processes of care were measured, such as whether the patient had a physical examination, specific laboratory tests, blood pressure monitoring, and diet/exercise education.

TABLE 1—ACCREDITATION AND NON-COMPLIANCE RATE WITH CLINICAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	HMO1	HMO2	HMO3	HMO4	HMO5
NCQA Accreditation ¹	3	1	3	0	1
External Review: ²					
Hypertension	38	39	39	46	53
Immunizations	(3)	(3)	(3)	57	55
Mental health	(3)	(3)	35	(3)	(3)
Initial assessment	56	49	43	44	57
Problem corrections	47	67	55	44	67

¹ Accreditation figures given in years.

² External Review Non-compliance rates given in percent.

³ Met an acceptable threshold.

These final data reflect results from a review of the SYSTEMS in place at those HMO's. Using health education as an example, 58 percent of the performance standards were not met by one HMO, 33 percent for another. In another example, one HMO, which has a three year accreditation had an overall non-compliance rate of 23 percent; 33 percent of the enrollee rights standards were not met; 39 percent of the patient satisfaction standards were failed and 33 percent of the health education standards were not met.

PRIVATIZING GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH PLANS: THE LIMITS OF PRIVATE ACCREDITATION

(Prepared by Claudia Schlosberg, Esq.)

Senate and House conferees begin deliberations this week to reconcile legislation designed to balance the federal budget in the next five years. Both the Senate and House versions contain a daunting number of changes to the nation's health safety net programs: Medicaid and Medicare. Some, such as eliminating the waiver requirement, have received a great deal of attention. Many other provisions, however, lie obscured within hundred of pages of text and have received little, if any public scrutiny. One such provision exempts Medicaid managed care plans from the requirement of an annual external, independent review if they have attained accreditation from a private, non-profit accrediting body such as the National Committee for Quality Assurance or the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Organizations. The annual external review process is designed to look at quality outcomes and the extent to which he managed care entity is meeting the terms of its contract with the state. In similar fashion, the House Medicare provision waive requirements for external review if a plan is privately accredited.

Consumers should be deeply troubled and concerned by this extension of "deemed status" to publicly-funded health plans. Although private accreditation of health care facilities and services historically has played